

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

18 July 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/EE

SUBJECT: Disposal of Surplus Personnel

1. During undersigned's tour of duty in Germany, his single most serious problem was in connection with the disposal of seven Albanians who had refused duty, after completing training and while preparing in Athens for the final and significant step (air-drop).

2. Prior to undersigned's attachment to BGFIEND, the then Field Chief, BGFIEND, had given firm assurance to both EUGOM and HICOG that Albanians, once they had been trained and shipped out of the U.S. zone, Germany, would not be returned thereto under any circumstances. The then Chief of Mission, BGRHYTHM, in Germany had appeared as liaison and contact man in the negotiations which had resulted in the aforementioned agreement (which, in itself, was of course only secondary, inasmuch as it had been a concession given in partial return for the privilege of training Albanians in the U.S. zone, Germany).

3. Late in October 1950 a cable from [] then at Athens, informed the undersigned (then at his proper station, Heidelberg) that seven of the trained Albanians awaiting the final air-drop into the target area, had declined to participate. Consequently, the undersigned was directed to establish, at once, a holding area in the U.S. zone for the reception and retention of the seven, who were euphemistically called "rejects". De Neufville cabled [] that the rejects would not be received in the U.S. zone, Germany, and further, that he had ordered the undersigned to ship them back immediately should they appear. This emphatic refusal was repeated; the undersigned likewise sent two cables of refusal to receive the rejects. On 4 November 1950 the seven rejects, conveyed by [] debarked at Rhein/Main Airport, and at once became the chief pre-occupation and problem for the undersigned, one that was not to end until the rejects departed 1 February 1951, almost ninety days later.

4. The initial disposition of the seven rejects was to request the U.S. Air Force to put them in the guardhouse at Rhein/Main. Then with the invaluable assistance of [] and Major Clarence Harlin, a safe-house was secured, some 26 miles from Heidelberg. On the night of 6/7 November 1950, the rejects were moved to the safe-house, in a truck loaned by DTRAPID and driven by personnel thereof. Guards were found from among the instructing staff (ICSASSY); they needed earnest persuading before undertaking the vital, if disagreeable, task.

5. In mid-November 1950, the undersigned conferred with G-2, U.S. Forces, Austria regarding movement of the seven rejects with nine

dependents to a

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

dependents to a New World country. A tentative agreement was reached under which an organization of interest to G-2, USFA, would move the sixteen bodies at a cost of \$1,000 per head. However, both from the point of view of BGFIEND and of the forwarding agency (CIG), it developed that this means was impracticable, and accordingly it was abandoned.

6. The seven rejects were well-fed and warmly housed, but they were discontented, since they complained that they were the victims of broken promises. The undersigned was not blamed by those characters; others having apparently made statements which were, rightly or wrongly, taken as promises. At least two rejects were able to report sick, with several diseases (in succession) as desired: psycho-somasis is the current tag for their condition.

7. Finally, the seven rejects were shipped out by air, being air-borne at 0847 hours, 1 February 1951. Reportedly they are still a concern, in this case to personnel in Greece.

8. Recommendation: This is immediate and urgent. A section must be established and manned, to study, plan, procure, and administer a suitable and secure Disposal Area--means to secure transportation thereto being included in the problem. The faith, prestige, and security of the U.S. Government are involved.

EE-3/HS/seb

SECRET